

Remarks/Arguments

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

In response to a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed April 24, 2006, the Examiner mailed a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment stating that the status of Claims 11 and 20 were not in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.121(c). Applicants have corrected the status of those claims as follows:

Claim 11:

The Examiner noted that the status of Claim 11 was listed as “currently amended” but that no changes were shown to that claim. In this Reply, Applicants have corrected the status of Claim 11 to “original” to reflect its actual status and to indicate that no changes were made or should have been made to Claim 11 in the RCE filed April 24, 2006.

Claim 20:

The Examiner noted that the term “fixed” on lines 3 and 5 of Claim 20 was missing in the RCE without any indication that those terms were to be deleted. In addition, line 3 of Claim 20 included the underlined term “fixed” indicating that it was an addition to Claim 20 at that insertion point.

Applicants have reviewed Claim 20 and have reinserted the term “fixed” as follows:

In line 3 – the term “fixed” is inserted between “one” and “recessed” as originally filed in the Reply dated November 2, 2005;

In line 5 – the term “fixed” is inserted between “said” and “recessed” as originally filed in the Reply dated November 2, 2005;

In line 4 – the underline of the term “fixed” is removed to indicate that term was present in Claim 20 as originally filed.

In addition, Applicants have further amended Claim 20 by adding the term “at least one” before the term “fixed” on line 5. This additional amendment to Claim 20 provides consistency to that claim limitation.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for examination on the merits, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully yours,



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